

EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE of the Suffolk County Legislature

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Education & Youth Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York, on January 23, 2001.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Vivian Fisher - Chairman
Legislator Angie Carpenter - Vice-Chair
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Andrew Crecca

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Fred Towle

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Elizabeth Nostrand - Aide to Legislator Fisher
Linda Bay - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Thomas Donovan - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office/IR
Sal LaLima - President/Suffolk County Community College
Chuck Stein - Chief Financial Officer/Suffolk County Community College
Ellen Schuller-Mauk - The Faculty Association
Karen Lessler - Nominee/SC Youth Board Coordinating Council
William D. Moore - Nominee/SC Youth Board Coordinating Council
Troy Livingstone - Nominee/SC Youth Board Coordinating Council
Donald Hicks - Nominee/SC Youth Board Coordinating Council
Catherine Romano - New York State PTA
Fern Alexanderson - Suffolk District PTA
Louis Medina - Director/Three Village Community Youth Services
Valerie Burgher - Newsday
All Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 1:43 P.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Good afternoon, welcome to the Education and Youth Committee. Hello, everybody. We will begin with the pledge, if Legislator Foley could lead us.

Salutation

Do we have any cards for speakers?

MS. MAHONEY:

No.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. We had invited Mr. Moore; is Mr. Moore here? Can you come forward, sir? Mr. Moore has been nominated by Legislator Caracciolo, Introductory Resolution 2284, to serve as a Board of Trustee. Hello, sir.

MR. MOORE:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

MR. MOORE:

Sure. I just -- the Pony Express to Southold was a little slow, I received a letter asking me to confirm I'd be here today so I called your office this morning.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you.

MR. MOORE:

So I guess we just got the letter and I'm happy to have that. I have with me a resume, if you would like me to pass that out to you?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes, please.

MR. MOORE:

Okay. Not shown in my resume, but as I drove over this afternoon I realized that I didn't point out I'm a life-long resident of Suffolk County and a -- I'm not in the business of education but I am a certain product of the education business of Suffolk County having grown up in the Lake Ronkonkoma, Sachem School System which is the monster school district out here.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Uh-huh.

MR. MOORE:

Moved to Riverhead, my father was a Methodist Minister and he was transferred out to Riverhead to a new church. So I went to a small school, I graduated from Riverhead High School, went off out of town

as I was out in Riverhead, that I wanted to come back to the area.

(*Legislator Caracciolo entered the meeting at 1:46 P.M.*)

I set up a law practice out in Southold, I've been out there for fourteen years or so. I got involved in public business on a different scale, I serve as a Town Councilman in the Town of Southold and have done that, I'm in my second term presently. I serve in my church, serve as a counselor for Boy Scouts. That's some of my background as a life-long Suffolk County resident from the big town to the small town, and that's a bit about me. If you have any questions or if I should just continue to ramble on, I can chatter away at whatever you wish.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'm only concerned because you don't have any educational experience in your background and this is serving on the Board of Trustees of an educational institution and I would like to see that part of it.

I do appreciate, however, your being a life-long resident and knowing the role of the Suffolk Community College in Suffolk County, how important it is to us, and you certainly know the culture of the County.

MR. MOORE:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And so that's very important. But I will open the floor to other questions from other Legislators at this point; are there any questions?

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam chair, maybe the sponsor --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Legislator Carpenter?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you for coming down today. I know that the Board of Trustees, those that are in place now, are all very sincere about their commitment to the Board of Trustees. It does take an inordinately large commitment, and are you prepared to do that?

MR. MOORE:

Absolutely.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I mean, there are a lot of meetings involved, committee meetings and events that I think -- I feel is very important for the board to be supportive of and to be in attendance at, you know, including graduations and so forth. Do you see yourself being able to make that kind of commitment?

MR. MOORE:

My wife, I'm very fortunate, is a hard working woman who has her own law practice and recognizes -- when I chose to go into the Town Board and work those responsibilities -- with her blessing I have come down for the interview, she did not sit there and say, "No, no, you cannot do these things." We understand and expect that that's all part and parcel.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Great.

MR. MOORE:

If the committee and the board as a whole would consider me for the position.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The sponsor of the resolution is here; Legislator Caracciolo, would you like to make a comment or ask a question?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so. Welcome, Bill.

MR. MOORE:

Thank you.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

I would just note that I would imagine as your -- as consideration goes forward that there will be those who will perhaps be concerned, and legitimately so, that given you are, A, an elected official, B, a member of one of the two major political parties, that you may be persuaded and have certain biases that would run against the grain of the broader interests of the institution, the faculties and the students of that institution. Would you like to comment on that?

MR. MOORE:

Absolutely. I don't come with a particular --

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you speak directly into the microphone?

MR. MOORE:

Sure. I don't come with a particular axe to grind or a preset agenda of any sort. I have had the pleasure of serving on boards out in Southold where it was bipartisan and if that was of a consideration, we had to work together or things didn't get done.

I also recognize that when you get in and you take a position, you are doing the work of that position. In this instance, it's a Trustee of the college -- and what I'm about to say may step on the toes a little bit, but as a Trustee I think your obligation is to the college itself and I think I would bring a unique perspective. And yes, I acknowledge I am not from the education business, but I am a product

of it and a sworn adherent and proponent of education from Pre-Kindergarten right on up to the highest education that we can get people to obtain.

Serving on the town Board in Southold, I have an interesting perspective there and that is at budget time we have various agencies and boards come to the Town Boards saying, "We need this and we need that," and so I get to sit there wearing my budget hat and saying, "Well, I'm sorry, we can't do that." I fully understand, if I were to be placed as a trustee to the college, the responsibilities of the college. And as Trustees, I'm sure there will be requests to come back to the Legislature. And so my point is the focus is on what's good for the college; it may not always be what people want to hear, but what's best for the college is what all trustees should be, I think, focused on as they serve in that capacity. And what I'm getting at is the capacity in which you serve, it's a different capacity than when you sit as a Legislator and say, "Well, we've got a variety of competing interests." I don't sit there as a Trustee or envision myself as a Trustee saying, "Well, I'm going to sit there and help, make this group or that group on the County Legislature look good or look bad." I think the focus is on working with the college and making that the best institution we can have for the community.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Any other questions, Legislator Caracciolo?

LEG. CARACCILO:

Because some of my colleagues would be concerned about perhaps a political agenda or a biased agenda on your part, I'm happy to hear that you've addressed that issue foursquare.

I think it's also important to understand how you come here today. You don't come here because you're not qualified; clearly from my perspective you're qualified, much as I thought back in 1992 when I submitted and he was approved and has served now as a college trustee until recently, until his recent resignation, Charles Lauer. One of the concerns I had, though, with Mr. Lauer is that over that frequency of time, I can't recall a particular time where if I didn't initiate an inquiry to him I was made aware of issues and policy considerations that were going before the board and had broader implications particularly as it related to budgetary matters that we are responsible for. So from my perspective, it's very important that you make a commitment to not only keep this individual Legislator informed of those issues that you see unfolding at the institution that deserve not only my consideration but this body as a whole's consideration, that you bring those issues to us, independent of those on the board who may feel otherwise.

Again, the position is not one of being a member of a club and I think sometimes there's a perception that there are groups or clicks, to use

the cliché, within that body of trustees, that function as such. From my perspective, I think there should be much more interaction between individual trustees, so that there should be subcommittees and people who want to work. Now, based on my recent investigation of what's going on over there, there are some trustees that have taken on a lot of responsibility -- example, Mike Hollander, and I can site a few

others, John Foley -- and others who have not, they're kind of just along for the ride. And quite frankly, I'm not interested, and you and I have had this conversation, with you serving in this position as one in the category of being along for the ride. I want you to be an active, engaged participant and, as I said, someone who will come back to this Legislative body and to the County Executive and share with him concerns that perhaps you don't feel are being addressed or redressed amongst the trustees. Do we have a -- do I have a commitment that you'll do that?

MR. MOORE:
Absolutely.

LEG. CARACCILO:
Thank you.

MR. MOORE:
I'd be happy --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Thank you, Legislator Caracciolo. Did you have a response?

MR. MOORE:
No, I was going to make an observation that even on my own Town Board we have a variety of subcommittees and there are ways in which -- well, never mind. You can work as hard as you want to work at something and there's plenty of work to go around. And you're right, some people find a way -- I'm not good at blowing my own horn but I'm going to do it now; I look at some of the things that I do and people say, "How in the world do you accomplish that," and I think nothing of it only because you get up in the morning and you say, "I'm going to accomplish this, this and this today," and that's how you have time in the evening to do something else. So that's it for blowing my horn. I don't think I'm carrying a load that is beyond my capacity to carry it, nor would I be adding to it beyond my ability to do a good job in this role.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Thank you. There's a question from Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:
Yeah, I'm looking at your resume and I did notice that you served as a Trustee of the Southold United Methodist Church, or you currently serve.

MR. MOORE:

Right.

LEG. CRECCA:

What do you think in that role, what does that bring to your skills as serving on the college Board of Trustees?

MR. MOORE:

Well, I think if I could just make -- rather than just picking on that one, I think the observation was made I'm not in the education business coming from that field, is that when you serve in a group, I

think the group is best served by having a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints whether you come from that or not. It happens that my father was a minister, it brings a certain background that is growing up in a parsonage for myself. I am not a zealot of any sort, there's nothing to do with any kind of background there, it was more community participation is what I'm indicating there. But we do budget there, and it's a small church so it's not -- we wear many hats there, sing in the choir and do that kind of stuff, too, so it's not -- it's not a very formal board in that respect, my Town Board work is much more structured.

LEG. CRECCA:

I guess my question is I assume that serving on the Board of Trustees, it won't be something new for you then.

MR. MOORE:

Oh, no, not in that respect. I have served -- I don't have it on here any longer, but I had been a member of a local rotary club for eight years and went through the ranks and was a president of that and worked in that organization. So I've served on trustee boards in the past.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. Thanks.

MR. MOORE:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

Good afternoon. You appear bright and articulate which is good, but I am frankly concerned about your lack of an educational background or a business background for that matter.

I had a couple of questions for you. Number one, with your law practice and with your relatively young family, could you explain why

it is that you'd like to join the board of the community college?

MR. MOORE:

Sure. It's always interesting, though I don't have a business background, I actually run my own law practice. And whether it's procedure or not, it is a business, I have overhead, I have an office, I have secretaries and staff and the whole bit. So I actually do see myself as a small businessman in the community, although I get to have that special label of being called a professional by having the Doctorate Degree of Law behind it. But I am a small businessman in a small community and I share many of the same concerns that the car repair shop down the road guy does and similar businesses. In that respect, we have the same demands on our time and things like that.

I come from a liberal arts background and a wide variety of experiences. And I think one underlying theme, to answer your question about why serving on the Board of Trustees comes back home to me is that I'm impressed almost on a daily basis how important

education is. And as I drove over here from Southold this afternoon contemplating what kind of questions I was going to ask, I new this was going to be one of them, the community college is part and parcel of and an integral part of Suffolk County's community. We have to make it as good as possible, it's for the betterment of all those small businesses out there who want to have an educated work force, who have people that can -- you know, if we can work with the high schools so that a logical flow of programming and a logical flow of offering of courses is relevant to our economy out here. We have some great employers out here from Computer Associates to others, we have a demand for quality educated work force.

And I had one more thought, it just popped out of my head and I apologize. But that's why I want to serve, as a recognition that -- oh, I know what it was. There's an opportunity here to see the economic force of the County advance through education. Out in Southold there is a talk going on for the east end campus -- and I'm not going to focus on that because I acknowledge and I wholeheartedly want to participate and I don't come from east end perspective and oh, oh, oh, I'm out for the east end. But there is a discussion out there going on about putting in place at the community college out on the Eastern Campus a wine management or winery management set of programs and courses, which is the logical consequence to all that's going on at the east end of the vineyard and aviculture going on. So that's the kind of interaction that I see and I would like to participate and further that cause for the community. Yes, I don't come from education and honestly I think if you call all come from the same place you can all nod your head and say the same thing. The diversity of input I think is what makes in interesting and makes a better product in the long run.

LEG. COOPER:

Thanks, Bill, and one follow up. Based on your existing knowledge of the workings of Suffolk County Community College, what are your concerns, if any, about the current functioning of the college and are there any concrete goals that you've set for yourself for what you'd like to accomplish if you were on the board?

MR. MOORE:

Well, I will be very humble in that respect, I don't have some grand vision of how I as one would come in there and shake things. I think the one thing I'd like to look into further the ascertain is the link between our area high schools and the community college, to make certain that there's a relevance there that what goes on at the community college is relevant to those who want to stay -- I don't believe at the community college we have a large student population that comes in from outside, these are home grown kids. And if there's an opportunity where by staying and going to the community college they can stay here, I think that that's the relevancy as far as the types of course offerings and the programming that goes on to see that we can keep those folks here in the community.

LEG. COOPER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Legislator Foley?

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Moore, welcome to the committee. By way of background, late last year I had offered a resolution for a replacement to the outgoing Trustee Lauer and it's the one position that I know of, the one Trustee on the board who had a professional, what I would call a professional, educational background, and that the remaining members of the board are, for the most part, either attorneys, business people or former public officials. And that I had considered this to be at least -- that at least one of the positions on the board should be reserved, in effect, to a person who has dedicated his or her professional life to education in order to have someone on the board who was well versed in what I would call complex, higher educational organizations. And I think it's important that at least one board member have that kind of background. So as you mentioned earlier, that there could then be that kind of diversity on the board so that they could have some interesting discussions, not have a long learning curve in order to, to use a cliché, hit the ground running. So I had some concerns with this particular nominee because I didn't see that kind of background or even as a member of a board of education, a local board of ed.

But with that said, there are things -- you gave some very thoughtful answers to the questions that were raised such as the need for

curriculum development. You associate the college quite rightly with the need to develop a curricula that will meet the needs of both existing or emerging economies and one, as you mentioned, was the wine industry. So I'm happy to hear that you have those kinds of thoughts.

Secondly, another area that in the past has received more lip service than anything else from within the administration of the college is this link between the high school and the college, that is essential. Many of us over the years have given a considerable amount of money to advertising to the college. But what has been to my way of thinking, I won't say it's been avoided but it hasn't been fully cultivated, is a grass roots effort to work closely with high schools so that they have a better appreciation and the counselors in the high school the principals in the high school, the superintendents in the high school, working with BOCES and the like to have -- to forge a closer link or relationship between the component school districts in the County and the community college's three campuses. So I'm happy to hear, through the Chair, that that's something that you also are interested in.

Now, earlier you mentioned that you want to serve the college. And in the best, let's use the suppratic method for a moment if we may. When you say serving the college, how do you define serving the college as a board member?

MR. MOORE:

Well, in the sense that you're talking about a fiduciary role as a trustee, and the college is an institution on its own. This was where I was referring back to the fact that I wear a budget hat and sometimes -- I won't have the burden as a trustee, if I were to be

selected, to have to deal with the same budget concerns the Legislature does.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right.

MR. MOORE:

Just as when I serve out in Southold on the Town Board, I sit in a budgetary capacity trying to tell people, "No, you can't do this." I hope to be able to sit there and say, "We have this idea, we have that idea," and when the trustees come with all these ideas, you folks will say, "That's very nice, guys, but the budget this year says we'll get you A through G this year, we can't get you to Z." That's the role I see, you guys can tell us, "No, we don't want you going there," or, "You can't do that, we can't afford that." But I don't think that --

LEG. FOLEY:

Let me put it in the obverse, and this has happened in the past. When Legislators are willing to give money to the college and certain people at the college weren't willing to take it, I would hope that

you would be in a position where you would want to be, let's say, more accepting of those monies than some other trustees in the past have been.

MR. MOORE:

I've never had that luxury, but I look forward to the opportunity.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Well, that's a very refreshing change and very refreshing comment. Those of us on this committee and the past committees, when we've also -- on our end, so to speak, as oversight, when we speak about serving the college, our folk -- well, let me speak for myself.

My focus has been about the students, then the faculty, then the administration and then the board, to me in that order. It's really about the students and it's really about the students and the faculty more than it's about the administration and the trustees. As important as the administration is, and there's many very dedicated members in the administration, and I'm not trying to denigrate that particular area, but I think the focus of all of us really has to be how can the trustees how can the administration, how can the faculty, how can the Legislature work -- since the Legislature is the sponsor of the college, not the County Executive but the Legislature -- how and what can we do to ensure that the students are receiving a quality education? That's my departure point for everything that I do on this board, rather in the Legislature. And that's also the framework I can say that some members of the Board of Trustees have also.

But within that responsibility, what's happened in the past -- and again, it's only my opinion and others can differ with it -- but we need to have on the board people who are willing to ask questions, people who are willing to ask questions not to make it difficult for difficult sake but to ask questions in order to try to further improve the atmosphere, improve the quality of education at the college for

the students. And I can say sometimes in the past there hasn't been that kind of independent questioning that needs to happen, or if it has there hasn't been enough of it.

Now, I wouldn't question, let's say, the sincerity of all who serve on the board. But I think what needs to happen -- and Legislator Caracciolo, your sponsor, has mentioned it -- is that there frankly needs to be a better working relationship, especially between the board and at least, I would say, this committee, this new committee, because we went to do what's best for the college. But the fact of the matter is -- and there's been some difference of opinion on some budget issues, through the sufferance of the Chair, where we have locked some budgetary lines, for increase, to increase the number of full-time faculty where we only want it used for that particular

purpose, some of us were willing to give sales tax monies to the college, they were less than willing to take it because they didn't like it because we were telling them what to do with the money.

But the fact of the matter is there are a number of things that you're going to have to come up to speed with, something called a Plan C Agreement which speaks of a semi-autonomous relationship, not an autonomous relationship, but a semi-autonomous relationship between the college and the County. There are -- as Chair of the Public Works Committee, I and others have concerns about the capital needs of the college. And that as we speak, there are, because of delays in State appropriations, the original cost estimates for some of the buildings have now escalated, so there's issues of the capital planning for the college. And then there's also issues of the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty, that we -- and it was initiated here, it wasn't initiated at the college, it was initiated here, to give the college additional monies to improve the ratio of full-timers -- full-time to part-time, another issue.

And finally, there's issues internally at the college, as you have probably been reading about. And I won't go into any great detail but it should be stated for the record, that within short order of a number of months there's sexual harassment cases. So these are things that are going -- so there's budgetary issues, there's building issues, there's faculty issues, student issues, personnel issues, there's a lot of great challenges at the college. The fact of the matter is this committee will be asking questions, we want to be partners, but what we need is to have on the board people who are willing to ask questions, that are willing to do the home work and that are also willing to work with us not in a -- well, to work with us in a cooperation fashion. Respecting the semi-autonomy of the college but also understanding that under the Plan C Agreement, we as Legislators do have a role in the college of not just budgeting monies but also to challenge each other to do better for the people that we're all here for, for the students.

So with that said, I wish you well. I hope, Madam Chair, that the partisanship that was exhibited with my nominee won't happen in this case. But I do want to -- reading the numbers, I do want to not only wish you well but expect you to do well because this is a very important area of County government what we do for the students of this County. Thank you.

MR. MOORE:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Did you have any response to any of that, a comment?

MR. MOORE:
I don't know that Legislator Foley expected one, but I do understand,

and there is a tension there. I have watched friends of mine serve on school boards and had long time dinner conversations with them as they recognized they were inappropriately deferred to their school superintendent, to use a local school board example.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Uh-huh.

MR. MOORE:

And they've sat there and didn't ask the tough questions. In fact, we've got a slight problem in my own school district out there where I think the board probably didn't ask enough tough questions, we've got a \$2 million overrun in a cost project that would give us a new elementary school out in Southold. So I understand what Legislator Foley is saying as far as asking the tough questions. You don't -- you know, these tensions are tough, it's one of those ones if you have an improvement in a product, and the product is in this case what the students are doing when they walk out the door, if the product is working and the system is working, an oversight board, whether it's the board of trustees of an institution such as the college or a legislative board or a committee of the legislative body, can have more trust and more belief that the product is working. It's when you sit there and say, "Geez, the sexual harassment cases are popping out." Out in Southold it was, you know, fist fights at the landfill and you hear this stuff third hand and you get down to a board meeting and you pound your fist on the table and say, "Dammit, we don't fight when we're at work, this is not what work is about," and you get very frustrated and angry because you have diverted and digressed from what the purpose and function and role was; just go do your job.

And so when there's a belief that the system, whatever it is you're talking about, is working and the product is coming out, then more trust gets given down the line for the guys on top who are funding it right on down the chain. And I think that's what you've got to work on all the time, in a quasi response to your comments.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Sounds like a good response.

MR. MOORE:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Certainly is appropriate. Are there any other questions? Okay.

Mr. Moore, you certainly have presented yourself in an impressive manner. You are definitely a very articulate person. I am impressed by the fact that you are an Eagle Scout Advisor because my son is a

because of any reflection on you but because there has been some confusion with communication between another candidate and my office.

MR. MOORE:
Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
And I would respectfully ask the sponsor to suffer a one cycle tabling on this so that we can clarify that out of respect to the other candidate.

MR. MOORE:
Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
And as I said, not because of any reflection on you.

MR. MOORE:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
I do appreciate your being here. Thank you for answering all of the questions thoroughly and articulately. On behalf of the committee, thank you very much .

MR. MOORE:
Thank you all very much.

LEG. CRECCA:
Thank you, Mr. Moore.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
We do have other guests, Karen Lessler who has been nominated to sit on the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council. Karen? Ms. Lessler's resume is included. It is Resolution 2305.

MS. LESSLER:
I have a current one, I think you have an old one

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Good afternoon, Ms. Lessler.

MS. LESSLER:
Good afternoon, Chairwoman.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Okay, so we have --

MS. LESSLER:
I provided you with an updated resume. I realized that you had an old one and a few changes have been add to it.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
As I looked at your resume, I was looking for experience with working

with children because it is a youth services --

MS. LESSLER:

That's why I had made some adjustments --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay.

MS. LESSLER:

-- because my resume doesn't reflect that I've been a child activist my entire adult life. Nine years has been spent teaching religious formations in a classroom of an average of 20 students. I'm currently on the Middle Country Central School District School Board Trustee. I have been with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital for 15 years raising money for children with cancer. And I am also, if you notice that I am currently in Stony Brook competing my Teacher's Certification as a Secondary Social Studies Teacher. And I did realize afterwards that the resume does not reflect --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

You're right, you didn't have that in your original resume.

MS. LESSLER:

Right, it didn't reflect some of the activities. I'm very involved in the community when it comes to children and most people that do know me know that I am a child activist. And I think that that's why Legislator Caracappa had asked -- invited me to participate in this because he sees the activity that I have been involved in, and mostly in the school district itself.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. And that certainly is a tremendous endorsement because I know how committed Legislator Caracappa is --

MS. LESSLER:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

-- to youth activities in his district and working with the youth of his district.

MS. LESSLER:

That is true.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I've seen him there. I've been fortunate enough to participate in some activities with him in that district and I know that he is committed to that. Are there any questions from any other members of the committee?

LEG. FOLEY:

A fine appointment.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. Well, thank you for being here.

MS. LESSLER:

Oh, thank you for having me.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

We didn't have a great many questions for you.

MS. LESSLER:

Thank you very much. Now, I couldn't present -- your letter reflected that I present some of the things that I intended to do, but I'm unfamiliar with the committee or the charges that the committee is given, so until -- if there is an appointment, you know, I could certainly present that.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Now, you are busy as a student and with all of your other activities and the committee will require some time.

MS. LESSLER:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Are you disposed to give whatever time is necessary?

MS. LESSLER:

I withdrew from some committees to make arrangements to be on this committee. Certainly the school board trustee I will remain on, I have a three year term that I'm in right now and I certainly will not withdraw from that, I have a lot of work to do there. And I work part-time, so going to school is not an issue. I think I can handle it, yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. Well, we wish you luck with it.

MS. LESSLER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you very much for being here.

LEG. COOPER:

I actually did have one brief question.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Oh, there is one question. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I have been trying to figure this out by myself and I finally decided to give it up and ask you; what is the connection between dental practice and nail salon?

MS. LESSLER:

I know, it's hard to word that. I work for a couple, he's a dentist and she owns her own private business.

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CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Oh, okay.

MS. LESSLER:

They brought me in and they kind of split my time managing both their businesses, so that's where the connection is.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

That was a good question.

LEG. COOPER:

So they're two separate businesses.

MS. LESSLER:

That's right, they're two separate businesses and I work for both of them under one umbrella.

LEG. COOPER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

That was a very good question. I was curious about that myself.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I read something in the paper about spa-dentists.

LEG. COOPER:

Oh, really?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Very good, okay. Mrs. Bonuso was not able to be here because as everyone knows, our notice was rather short because of the -- it's a new committee and we weren't certain of the time until very recently.

2307, Mr. Hicks; is Mr. Hicks here? And there is a resume attached.

MR. HICKS:

Hi.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Hello. Welcome, Mr. Hicks, it's nice to have you here.

MR. HICKS:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I see that you've been working with children for quite a long time --

MR. HICKS:

A couple of years, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

-- as a tech teacher?

MR. HICKS:

I started in education in 1956, actually my schooling background is a BS in Education from the State University of New York at Oswego and Industrial Arts. I have a Master's Degree in Education with a major in Interior Design at Oklahoma State University. I taught for 16 years in Valley Stream as an Industrial Arts Teacher, I taught in Shoreham for 14 years which always provokes a lot of interesting reactions.

LEG. FOLEY:

As long as you didn't work on the power plant.

MR. HICKS:

Some of my students did, though.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Wood shop at the high school?

MR. HICKS:

Pardon me?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Wood shop?

MR. HICKS:

Yes, architecture, design. I like to think that people used to talk -- get a little bit reluctant at the term shop, when you say you taught shop, we were always playing games with industrial arts and different kinds of -- custodian as opposed to janitor kind of a thing. And actually I've changed my sense of that because I think the shop has a very important connotation to school now because it was about teaching kids rather than about teaching subject matter and that's become a rather unusual circumstance in our schools today, we're more concerned with subject matter, standardized testing than we are with teaching kids. So that's a bit of a reason why I'm still involved.

I have been on the Suffolk County Youth Board since 1996 as Marty Haley's representative. I was instrumental in starting the North Shore

Youth Council in 1982, I was President of the Board of the North Shore Youth Council from 1984 to 1995. I was involved with the Tri-District formulation between Shoreham-Wading River, Rocky Point and Miller Place and am still on the Advisory Board of the Tri-District Program which brought somewhere in the vicinity of a million dollars into the three districts in terms of educational funds, also into Riverhead which was part of a Fresh Start Grant which came out of that Tri-District Grant. So I have been involved with kids and education for a couple of years. In fact, I even have a former student sitting in the audience, Sal is a former student, but he's older than I am. Anyhow --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Well, what's interesting is that I did use the word wood shop and that you picked up on that. Because I think that it is an important component that somewhere along the line was left by the way side and then picked up again, because I think when we look at the whole child and the whole student we realize that there are many components and

there are many modalities of teaching that we need to express and use. So I think we're of the same mind when you express yourself in that manner.

I also think it might be a good idea for to you speak to Ms. Lessler since you do have so much experience serving on youth boards, and she expressed a curiosity as to what the direction would be and what she would be asked to do.

MR. HICKS:

I would be happy to, it's an interesting experience.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

But I certainly appreciate your comments. You answered some of the questions that I had. Are there questions from -- Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

I just want to know, did you teach wood shop or industrial arts to Marty Haley?

MR. HICKS:

Actually, Marty was a victim of my golf instructions.

LEG. CRECCA:

There you go. That explains a lot about Marty's golf game. No, I have no questions. I just would comment that certainly your service in the volunteer experience involving our youth here in Suffolk County is to be commended. And on behalf of my fellow committee members, I would thank you for your service in the past and in anticipation of your reappointment, thank you for your service in the future.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you. Just one quick thought. An important role that the youth council -- among the many roles that you undertake, one that would be very helpful for us is during the budgetary process, if and when the County Executive formulates his operating budget over the summer time, as you know -- and it's the middle of September is when he submits it to us -- but not waiting until he submits the budget to us but at the point in time that all youth related budget requests are submitted to the Budget Office of the County Executive, that the Youth Board Coordinating Council would play a more active role, and this is no criticism, but play an active role in requesting what the proposed budgets are for the office of youth, for instance, or other similar offices in the County. To have a presentation made by the executive offices also to the Coordinating Council as to what will be the proposed budget by the County Executive for youth in the County and to do it well in advance of the September 15 or middle of September date. So that, for instance, if in June when the County Executive receives the departmental requests, that at some point soon thereafter, not at the end of August but in the early part of the summer or at some point

in June, that the Youth Board would also receive a copy of the budget requests for those things that you have oversight on. And that would be very helpful, it should be helpful to the executive branch. And then also once he does submit -- and I say he, but once the County Executive does submit his budget to us in the middle of September, to be available to the Legislature and to this committee, through the Chair, to give us your thoughts about the proposed budget on whether it meets or falls short of the needs of kids in the County. So I would hope that that could be an interesting role that the council could play.

MR. HICKS:
May I make two comments on that?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Absolutely.

MR. HICKS:
One, I am sure that I speak for the other representatives on the board when I say that we would welcome the opportunity. One of the most frustrating parts about being on the board is we sometimes get the sense that we're attending -- and the meetings are great and there are a lot of good things happening out at the board, but I think we would all look for greater participation if it's forthcoming.

LEG. FOLEY:

If I may say, Madam Chair, that's my exact point. Because what happens -- again, this is not to start a quarrel with the Executive, but because Youth Services falls under the Executive's own office so to speak, we don't receive -- as we do from other departments, we don't receive copies of what the requests are for the Office of Youth. Maybe some Legislators do, I know that I don't and I don't think BRO does.

MR. POLLERT:
No.

LEG. FOLEY:
The answer is no, they don't. So that's why it could be very important, in essence, as a liaison with us, with this committee, you may have to do it affirmatively, to speak to the Executive Branch to say that you wish to play that role and wish to receive copies of the proposals from the Office of Youth if and when they do make them to the Budget Office of the County Executive.

MR. HICKS:
They are presented, we do get a copy of the budget proposals.

LEG. FOLEY:
Okay.

MR. HICKS:
We are asked for our reactions but where they are only within the context of a particular meeting, where they go from there I think has been a source of frustration.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Well, then I certainly echo what Legislator Foley has indicated, that the Legislature be --

MR. HICKS:
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
-- made aware of your recommendations and your comments.

MR. HICKS:
Help us.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Because it is important if you are going to put in that kind of time -- excuse me, Legislator Foley, I just jumped right in that.

LEG. FOLEY:
No, go right ahead. No, you're absolutely right.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

It's important that if you are going to put in that kind of time, that you know that it's to some avail and that you're having an impact and that your voice is being heard. And I'm sure it is heard in the County Executive's Office, but so that we can also, as the people who have asked you to serve on the board, that we know the progress.

MR. HICKS:

How do you envision us doing that? I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Good.

MR. HICKS:

How do you envision us doing that?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

How.

LEG. FOLEY:

By coming back to the committee.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Can I just jump in?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Certainly.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I think that the Presiding Officer has seen fit to create the component of youth on the Education Committee.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

It is the Education and Youth Services Committee.

LEG. CARPENTER:

You know, that is going to make all the difference in the world.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Because prior to this it was just buried in human services and did not have the focus that it has now. So I think your role as a member of the Youth Board will -- you'll have an opportunity to be more active and have that interaction when there are budget hearings on the operating budget, that I'm sure that the youth -- you know, this committee certainly will be having hearings.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

It's a clear link.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

This committee is a clear link for youth.

MR. HICKS:

It's wonderful.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And youth services. And by the way, I think one of the other aspects that might be entertained in your discussions is are some of the ideas that were pointed out by Mr. Moore which I think are very important which is the preparation of our youth going into the community as workers, the partnership between -- and I know that in IA that's always been something very important. And we're going back again as I mentioned before, the cycle continues to occur. We have to prepare kids for the work force and I think that that might be an area that you look at.

MR. HICKS:

The International Wood Workers Association has in progress an effort to reinstate industrial arts as a mandatory part of the high school curriculum.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Very good.

MR. HICKS:

And this is an \$8 billion industry that is really feeling the effects of not having industrial arts in the public high schools.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The craftsman aren't there. Well, thank you very much.

MR. HICKS:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

2308, Mr. Troy Livingstone, and his resume is also attached.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Oh, did you want us to look at a more updated resume or this one okay?

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

That's good.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. Good afternoon, Mr. Livingston.

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you very much for being here and thank you for being willing to serve. I am very impressed by the fact that you have been involved in peer mediation.

MR. LIVINGSTON:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

That's one of my pet projects in the school district in which I teach, Peer Mediation/Conflict Resolution.

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Yes, it's an excellent program.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Very important, and that would be a very valuable thing to bring to the Youth Council.

I don't really have any questions. Your resume really answered any questions I have with regards to how, in what capacity you've worked with children.

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Certainly a wide range of both work experience and volunteer experience. But if there are any other Legislators who have questions?

LEG. FOLEY:

No, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Well, anyone who isn't aware of peer mediation and why I was so excited about it, peer mediation does give children the tools to respond to difficult situations in a non-violent manner and it helps to avoid conflict or resolve conflict in a non-violent way. And certainly with the emphasis throughout our country at looking at ways to give children tools to behave in a non-violent manner, I think that Mr. Livingstone's participation in this kind of program is certainly

very valuable and we applaud you for being involved in that and we hope that you bring that to the Youth Council.

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Oh, definitely, definitely. I started the program about two years ago and I have noticed a drastic change within the school setting and it's excellent, an excellent program. I work with gangs, I work with just fellow students. Because this is very important within the community as well as the outside because there have been numerous occasions where I have witnessed problems with people on the outside and I've intervened and basically been a peer mediator to the situation and I see how it works and it's definitely a plus. It's excellent, an excellent program.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you very much. It's great to have you here.

MR. LIVINGSTON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And we're just very excited about your being here. Thank you.

MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

2309 is -- is this your --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Uh-huh, Theresa Parrish.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Is Ms. Parrish here? There's a resume attached.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah. Theresa is a full-time student at St. Joseph's College and is student teaching now so is not able to be here, but her resume is attached. I can speak to other her qualifications, and I think her resume does very well, too. But back in '95 when I was working with the school district in trying to put together a substance abuse task force, it was Theresa Parrish who was most participatory in putting the time and effort in in encouraging the Superintendent to put this together, and she still serves as a representative of the PTA on it. She also served for two years as the Substance Abuse Chairperson for the Suffolk District PTA, so she's very, very excited about the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And she's a parent workshop facilitator.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, she's great.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And they do really good work.

LEG. CARPENTER:

She's really great. And her son is an Eagle Scout award winner, he just got his Eagle Scout Badge six months ago.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And you know the family has to be involved in that.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes, they're great.

LEG. FOLEY:

Did you give the son a proclamation, by the way

LEG. CARPENTER:

I did, it was so incredible, it was really incredible. They've been involved in the community for many years.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

As I had said earlier, because the committee assignments were just very recently distributed, there were several nominees who because of their job schedule were not able to attend. And I do want to also speak -- is there anyone here whom I did not acknowledge and who wishes to speak about any of the -- Lou? Lou Medina is the Director of the Community Youth Services -- Three Village Community Youth Services.

MR. MEDINA:

Hi. Good afternoon.

LEG. CRECCA:

Hi, Lou.

MR. MEDINA:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Good to have you, Lou.

MR. MEDINA:

I'm also the Legislative liaison for the Director's Youth Association for the County and we did have a meeting this morning. One of the obvious concerns for us this coming year is, as usual, funding and programs. As you are fully aware, all of our County youth agencies provide needed programs for families and youth and for senior citizens, so we not only work with young people and their families, but we also work with our senior citizens. And a lot of our agencies presently are looking to expand their services to include a lot of different types of services, one being I know that the Boys and Girls Club in Bellport is looking to build a facility, to have a multi-purpose facility in that area. We also in the Three Village community are also looking to build a multi-purpose facility, so there are several agencies that are looking to build facilities. I know that I grew up through the Boys and Girls Club System in Nassau County and in our area where I used to do live, within a 25 mile radius we had three boys and girls clubs facilities that provided a multiple service for the respective communities.

I believe that what I would like to present to you and for you to think about for this coming year is to look at the different agencies who want to build these facilities and to help us seek the funding necessary, whether it's County, State, Federal, through your partnerships with local and State and the Federal government so that our agencies can pursue these dreams and these goals of providing better services. There is support in our respective communities throughout to finance some of these facilities, there are foundations out there that will give you brick and mortgage money, that will give you programmatic money. So we're not coming to you to ask you for money but to allow us to use you as our resources so that we can pursue these much needed services. I know Vivian, Legislator Fisher and I and Assemblyman Englebright have been working diligently on trying to find some space and to pursue the dream as they say.

So I want to thank you for this opportunity. And if there's anything that I can do to speak with you or to help you -- kind of give you more information about the different agencies that are looking to do this, please feel free to call upon me. Thank you.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Thank you, Lou. Are there any --

LEG. CRECCA:
Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:
I just actually was going to ask, Lou, if you know of any such projects or efforts that are in any of our districts, to notify us directly about those individual projects within our district. Because I certainly -- I don't think there's a Legislator here who wouldn't want to support those type of programs, and I know personally I would love to see that happen within my district. So if you are aware of any in our district, please just pass that information on to us and I'd be happy to jump on board.

MR. MEDINA:
Great. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Thank you very much for being here, Lou.

MR. MEDINA:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on any of the resolutions before we go to the agenda? President LaLima; sir, did you want to say anything before we go to the agenda, was there anything that you wanted to mention?

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MR. LaLIMA:

I didn't really come here prepared to speak.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, don't feel compelled.

MR. LaLIMA:

Well, I want to just, first of all, express my enthusiasm for the makeup of this committee, you have a wonderful group of people here and I know you're all committed to the causes and the work of the community college. I will work hard to maintain closer communications. It's been a very difficult period with us at the college with the time demands on me, between Albany and the demands of New York City of the SUNY System, but I'm going to try my best to be here for each of the meetings, whether we have something on the agenda or not.

And with your approval, I would like to also have an opportunity occasionally to meet individually with each of you to discuss particular issues or concerns you may have so that I can hear them firsthand rather than secondhand. Because sometimes, as you know, in the translation, something that starts out at point A, by the time it gets down to point D it has already changed, you know, a hundred and fifty percent. So if we can, I'd like to maintain that closer communication with you. And certainly I will do what I can to do whatever we can at the college to achieve the goals that I think we all mutually have established for it.

With respect to the current financial situation, you know, we do have what -- not is currently a problem, I responded to Legislator Cooper's letter recently regarding what could potentially become a deficit and we were, you know, attempting to head that off and make sure it doesn't happen. We did identify a number of things that we think are problems. To begin with, the budget that we began the year with, in looking back we recognized that the increase that the County gave us was really offset, to a large extent, by the increase in County service costs. We were jumped \$600,000 in those costs which reduced the increase that the County gave us from -- Chuck probably knows the number -- 1.1 and 1.2 million by 600,000, so we went down to about half. Then he got a bill recently for another \$225,000 in health insurance costs. On top of that, the turnover savings in the budget, we had asked for already a rather large number of about \$2.3 million or 2.2 million and that was increased to 2.5 or so. So when you put all these things together, basically the whole County increase was

eliminated from our budget. We then face structural increases in salaries and certain inflationary costs in materials, supplies and things like that.

So when you put that together with, you know, just operating the college on a day-to-day basis, a schedule that's put into place last March by the time you get to September, you know, we began to see we might have some problems. So we've been addressing that, we think we have a plan in place to make sure that we can stay within the available funding, that's a concern obviously. I want you to know that, I'm sure you share that but we're working hard and we do have a plan working with our board on that particular issue.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Well, I truly appreciate your being here. I am very happy that you're here, I think it marks a very good beginning for this committee and this new year because of the very reasons that you've stated. If we're going to have communication between this Legislative body and the college, it's important that we're able to go to the person who has the ultimate responsibility of running the college, yourself and the Trustees.

And I had had the experience, when I last served on this committee, of having questions that were not able to be answered because the people who sometimes represented the college were not in the position of being able to give us a definitive answer. So it's very important to me that you're here today and I am hope that you will, as you have indicated, make the effort to be here as often as you can. It's important in that communication aspect, it's important in order to initiate actions that we're able to go to the person who can initiate those actions when we have comments, that it isn't lost in the translation between A and B. So it certainly marks an auspicious beginning to 2001. Are there any -- I'm sorry.

MR. LaLIMA:

No, I was just going to say, I appreciate that. And I want you to know, you know, I'm sincere in saying that. I really believe we all have the interest of serving the County's residents with a very, very high quality community college. We have the potential for it. Over the years we have been, you know, hot and cold, both the college and the support we've gotten, sometimes from the State, sometimes from the County. So, you know, there's a lot of places we could point but that doesn't do us any good, we've got to look to the future, we've got to learn from the past and we've got to build so that we move in the direction we want to go. And I think we can get there and, you know, I am hoping for your continued support. And certainly, again, anything I can do and anything I learn from you that is a concern that I can address, I will.

With respect to the sexual harassment cases that Legislator Foley referred to, obviously those are disturbing to us. This is an item

today that is going to probably appear more and more in any large organization. Our responsibility is to make sure we have a work place that those kinds of things are prevented from happening to the extent that we can prevent them and take whatever actions when they do occur to make sure that the work place is returned to a place where those kinds of things will not recur, and that's the way we're focusing on these particular cases right now. It is a large place, you know, we have approximately 15 to 1,600 full and part-time employees, you've got over 20,000 people attending when you take the ESL Program of 2,500 and add it to 18,000 thousand regular students, and not to mention the non credit programs over and above. So the potential for incidents is there, our job is to try to create an environment and policies that will not provide opportunities for those kinds of things to happen, as well as other kinds of crime and things that happen on campuses throughout the country.

So we'll continue to work on that. We're looking at a lot of things, restructuring our security, putting new kinds of security devices as well as procedures into place and over the next year hopefully we'll have a lot of these things worked out. So we have a challenge but with your help we'll rise to it and hopefully make Suffolk again the best community college in the State.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you. Are there any other questions? Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. President LaLima, as you know, the Governor has offered his budget for the State. If you are not ready today, I think it would be helpful to this committee if a presentation at some point could be given to the committee and how the proposal will affect the college in two different ways, both in the operating aid as well as in funding for the capital projects. Later this week, I know Mr. Cooper, Paul Cooper from the facilities, will be attending the Public Works Committee to talk in detail about the Capital Program needs. But if there's any way that we can be of help also to help the college to advocate to the State to increase the aid that's needed for the building aid and also for operating aid, I'm sure all of us are more than willing to do so. Is there anything that you can tell us today in regards to when you'll be going up to Albany?

MR. LaLIMA:

Yes, sure can.

LEG. FOLEY:

What will be the points of discussion and how we can also be informed about that, through the Chair.

MR. LaLIMA:

Sure. What Chuck was whispering in my ear was that we weren't being --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'm sorry, I can't hear you. Could you speak closer to the mike?

MR. LaLIMA:

What Mr. Stein was whispering in my ear at that moment was simply that the Governor's budget doesn't provide any increase in operating aid, which I knew.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. LaLIMA:

But it's good he reminds me, you never know with old age, you'd be surprised. But basically the Governor's budget, which has been traditional for Governors going back for years, Governors tend to not put anything for community college base aid every year because from what I understand, the philosophy is that community colleges have so much local support, not meaning the counties but your State Legislative representatives that will fight at the State level, that they don't have to do it, let the Legislators do it; I don't think that's a good attitude to have but that's what we have to live with.

My understanding is from having a meeting with the Chancellor just a couple of weeks ago where he briefed us before the Governor's budget came out, that his meeting with the Governor revealed that the Governor was not going to put any base aid in there and that, you know, he was still going to go forward. The SUNY System put in for \$175 increase per FTE, the Governor came out with a zero increase per FTE. The Chancellor believes that there's a good chance that the Legislature will put in 125, not more.

LEG. FOLEY:

Uh-huh.

MR. LaLIMA:

Obviously we would like the 175, as many of the colleges throughout the State. Some of the colleges are up against a tuition cap which is currently 2,500 a year; we're not there yet but we'll obviously be pushing the envelope pretty soon because we have very few places to turn. Where we're going to go is to the Legislature because once the Governor releases his budget, it's in the hands of the State Legislature, the Senate and the State Legislature itself.

LEG. FOLEY:

The Assembly.

MR. LaLIMA:

So what we're doing is we have a date already scheduled, a week from

Monday, not the 29th but whatever, February 6th I think it is. I'm going up with another administrator and six students. We deliberately chose to not go up on SUNY Day which is in March because SUNY Day is a zoo and you really don't get the attention, so we picked a date where nobody else that we know of is going up. We're taking the six students and we've got appointments with all the Legislators at the State level who come from Suffolk County and we'll be appealing to them to give us the State aid. We're going to ask for 175 and we're going to ask them to support the SUNY budget and hopefully get them to understand. We'd also like them to restore more money for contract courses, the Governor reduced it from two million to one million, we'd like that to go back to the two million. We really wanted ten million because we really think the community colleges are the means to get the work force that this County and this State really needs; even though we have a high flying economy right now, that doesn't mean it's going to be high flying two or three years from now. And we believe strongly that a good work force would continue to lure new businesses out to Suffolk County and keep the economy strong. Work force is critical and we really believe we need to get that kind of support.

More and more we're going to have to move away from traditional degree programs, more and more people are going to come in and out, they're going to take two courses, three courses, four courses or they're going to want program A which might takes six months. We're going to have to learn how to compress programs so that instead of taking two years we can give a person, what might have taken a year, a program in four months or six months because that's what's going on in the private sector. We need to compete and we're going to be out there to compete in that way.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The fast track courses that you're seeing in some of the private colleges.

MR. LaLIMA:

Fast track, absolutely. We're moving now to develop a 501-C3 Corporation under our Board of Trustees which would give us an opportunity to compete, otherwise we're just going to continue to lose people to these institutes, and that's a movement going on across the country. So we've just got to be out there and we've got to be -- keep our finger on the pulse and keep up with what's happening.

LEG. FOLEY:

Finally, Madam Chair, through the Chair, if I could -- Fred, if I could ask, have you had a chance to -- or Tom Cunningham, have had a chance to look at the budget at the college and could you give the committee the thoughts of the Budget Review Office regarding the college's budget situation?

MR. POLLERT:

We had received a copy of the memoranda that was sent from the President to the former Chairman, John Cooper, we did review it. Chuck has provided me some data on an update that they have with respect to expenditures and the revenues as well as their proposed reduction plan. We understand that it's kind of a moving target at this point in time because students can continue their to drop through the end of February, so the student tuition is not locked in yet. We'll be meeting with Chuck this coming week to try to firm up the budget numbers to the extent possible.

LEG. FOLEY:

Can that be shared with the committee as well?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

Through the Chair's Office.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And we had spoken briefly regarding the full-time faculty members and the number of positions that were available and how those have been ; what is the status?

MR. LaLIMA:

Of the funding for the full-time positions? The board allowed us to fill 15, I think it was 15 or 16 of those back in September and froze five because of their concerns with funding that we would not be able to make it, and they were probably wise in doing that as we are beginning to see. So five of those positions were not filled.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

How does that impact the adjunct population?

MR. LaLIMA:

Well, it's hard to say exactly, our ratio has gone up, obviously, with the increase in full-time people. But, you know, I don't have any specific numbers at this point. I would say that obviously if we hired another five full-timers, the average load of a full-time person would be between four and five courses a semester, and if you took that as five times four, you'd have 20 courses, you'd have 20 additional assignments for adjuncts each semester, or 25, again, depending on whether it's a four credit or three credit course. So it would be in the range of 20 or so courses a semester would be assigned to adjuncts that would otherwise have been in the schedule of full-timers which we didn't hire. .

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Fred, how does that impact the budget that we had looked at during the budget?

MR. POLLERT:

What the impact would be would be that the Legislature in the Omnibus resolution added full funding for the new full-time faculty spots, to the extent that they had maintained vacancies it should improve their turnover savings because they're not paying out salaries for those individuals. When the President spoke previously about turnover savings being increased to two and a half million dollars, that was a function of the County Executive's Office, not any actions that the Legislature took. The Legislature increased turnover savings by \$50,000 but that larger dollar amount that the President spoke to was turnover savings that was included in the County Executive's recommended budget to the Legislature. It would appear that they're going to have cost overruns for both the adjuncts as well as full-time faculty, so we're going to have to look at that. It could be that there was a misestimate in what the turnover savings was and what the actual costs were that were presented to the County Exec's Office because when we had done a price out in our report, we had thought that perhaps salaries were short by about \$250,000, but clearly it's substantially more than that at this point in time.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. And because there seemed to be some disagreement as to exactly what the shortfall is, you will be trying to reconcile those and have a report ready for us next time we meet?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes, we will.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

A result of a meeting between the two of you. Thank you.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam chair, if I may? Thank you. President LaLima, the five positions that are vacant, by being vacant what do you intend to do with the monies in that particular area?

MR. LaLIMA:

Basically they're just, as Fred points out, they basically help --

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you speak into the microphone, please?

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah, I keep forgetting, it slips away. As Fred pointed out, essentially all that does is help fulfill the budget requirement for a certain amount of dollars in turnover savings. Obviously, that's a big, big stretch to hit two and a half million dollars in turnover

savings. Even five vacant positions is, what, about a quarter of a million dollars and you're talking -- you know, we need turnover savings of two and a half million. We don't get that many people leaving, particularly since we had such a big shake out over the last three years, we had about a hundred and -- oh, I don't know, 120, 130 retirements, so the rate of turnover in that area this year has dropped significantly.

LEG. FOLEY:

As far as the --

MR. LaLIMA:

So it's a big number to crunch.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just through the Chair, the faculty positions through early retirement that you had to keep vacant for a period of time, those positions now are available to be filled?

MR. LaLIMA:

We filled all the vacancies.

LEG. FOLEY:

All the vacancies that were through early retirement.

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah, basically every -- what we did last year is we filled all the existing vacancies and of the new positions that we were given funding for the board allowed us to fill like 15 I think it was.

LEG. FOLEY:

Through the Chair, Mr. Stein -- Madam Chair, Mr. Stein --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

-- has some other information on this. This will be my last line of questioning.

MR. STEIN:

There are 28 more faculty people on board this year than there were last year.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

So that includes the --

LEG. FOLEY:

So that's 16 plus 12.

MR. STEIN:

Right.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Through the Chair, when -- President LaLima, when would you intend to fill the other five positions?

MR. LaLIMA:

Well, probably not now until the next budget year because obviously once you're at this point the budget year is essentially shot, your staff for the spring. Now summer, we don't hire full-timers for the summer, anything that comes up that the full-timers don't teach we assign to adjuncts during the summer.

LEG. FOLEY:

Finally, Madam Chair, if I may, if the President could give to the committee what its talking points will be in Albany next week. And also, if you do have developed, or the Board of Trustees has developed, what your State agenda is for this coming legislative session, what changes you'd like to see in a variety of ways including out-of-County tuition and if that could be presented to this committee at future meetings, through the Chair, that would be helpful.

MR. LaLIMA:

When you say out-of-County tuition, I am not sure what you mean.

LEG. FOLEY:

I'm just saying that the issues that the college intends to advocate at a State level. If you would bring also to the attention of this committee what those issues are, whether there's any talking points on it, whether there's any position papers on these things, so we're kept informed about what the college's State agenda is so that when we speak to State Legislators we can also speak on things that will help the community college.

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah. We don't have a complete plan yet, it's two weeks away.

LEG. FOLEY:

So I'm saying when you do.

MR. LaLIMA:

We plan to do that, but I would be happy to share it.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

MR. LaLIMA:

Let me just point out that this Friday I go to my monthly meeting with the Presidents of the SUNY community colleges, we have a monthly

meeting and this year it's right down here in LaGuardia. We work together so that we go to the State with a unified plan of action and requests, and this Friday I will be getting some of the final details. We meet with the Chancellor's Deputy for Community Colleges as well as all of the community college presidents.

LEG. FOLEY:

So you'll be able to share that information with this committee.

MR. LaLIMA:

And we will probably get the final pieces of a plan that we will be putting in place, and then we'll put our own finishing touches here locally because we have some issues that are not of concern up on Onondaga or someplace else, and then we will be going up there. We will be leaving on Sunday the 5th because we have to be in the Legislature early in the morning, so we get up to Albany the night before, we have teams set up. It's been very successful, we have done this each year. There used to be a Community College Day in Albany but they've done away with that so they've combined it with SUNY Day, but there's 64 SUNY campuses and when you get 64 campuses with five or six people from each one, you've got 300 people running around, you know, seeing a handful of Legislators, so it's no good.

LEG. FOLEY:

You can share the LaGuardia meetings documents with this committee?

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah, I don't know if there will be any documents --

LEG. FOLEY:

Well --

MR. LaLIMA:

But whatever comes out of discussions and the plan --

LEG. FOLEY:

And then what you finally prepare to take to Albany.

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah, and whatever we decide --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay we, do want to move toward the agenda.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. LaLIMA:

Yeah, what we decide to put together as we go up there, because we do go up with a plan, we brief the students. What's nice is the students go -- we usually set them up in teams of two to three with one of the administrators to visit each Legislator and each Senator and we brief them, about the college, about the budget, so that they go in there with a little bit, you know, of a sense of what will work. And they also give a little bit of their own personal experiences at the community college which really does make a difference. You know, when

these Legislators talk to these students, they really find that, you know, it hits home and when you have them share the agenda with us, it helps to get the support that we're looking for.

Tabled Prime Resolutions

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Thank you. I do want to move on to the agenda, and I have a question to ask you about the very first resolution which is 1797-00 which is approving the participation of Suffolk County Community College in the Retirement Incentive Program pursuant to State of New York Chapter 86 of the Laws of 2000 (Postal). The second WHEREAS, did you approve Resolutions No. 30 and 50, exercising an option to participate?

MR. LaLIMA:

The board had decided that it would not want to support that this year because of a number of things. Number one, the front costs --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

So this isn't correct?

MR. LaLIMA:

Excuse me?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'm saying then it would seem that the second WHEREAS this year it wasn't approved?

MR. SABATINO:

Madam chair, if I could just interject.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'm confused about this.

MR. SABATINO:

It's too late to act on it now, but when Legislator Postal filed it she filed it in anticipation of some action being taken.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I see.

MR. SABATINO:

So that those X's were put in to represent --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Oh, I thought those were numbers, 30 and 50.

MR. SABATINO:

No, they were intended to be blanks in the event that the college took the action.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'm a Latin teacher, what can I tell you? I see X's I think, you know, that you didn't know how to do the 50 in Roman Numerals.

35

MR. SABATINO:

Right, you have to translate it back.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. Well, then it's a moot point and so thank you. We're going to -- the Chair makes a motion to table subject to call.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1797 is tabled subject to call (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle). Thank you very much, President LaLima.

MR. LaLIMA:

Thank you very much

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

2007-00 which is reappointing Charles L. Lauer to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Guldi). I had indicated earlier that I hadn't been able to communicate with Mr. Lauer so I asked the committee to table this.

LEG. CARPENTER:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Mr. Lauer has reassigned.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

There was communication with my office that made that not clear, so until that's clear I'm asking the committee to table this.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well, just as a point of information -- in fact, the President I guess could confirm it -- but he did resign and was presented a plaque at the Board of Trustees.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

We had that discussion earlier and there is still a question. So until

that's settled, I will ask that that be tabled until our next cycle.

LEG. FOLEY:
Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 2007 is tabled
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

And I ask the sponsor's indulgence to table 2284-00 for the same reason, (Appointing William D. Moore to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Caracciolo).

LEG. COOPER:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 2284 is tabled
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

2304-00 (Approving the reappointment of Terry J. Scammell, D.D.S., as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #2 (County Executive). The reappointment of Dr. Scammell, there is a resume enclosed. I don't know why he's not present. Is there who -- I have never met him. More experienced Legislators, do you know Dr. Scammell? Well, I'm going to make a motion to table since there is --

LEG. CARPENTER:
The youth board person is not here, but it could be said that he's participated because it's a reappointment.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Yes. Lou, do you have any knowledge of Dr. Scammell?

MR. MEDINA:
No I haven't met him, no.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Okay. Then I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. COOPER:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 2304 is tabled
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

2305-00 - (Approving the appointment of Karen Lessler as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #4 (County Executive). Motion to approve by -- I

didn't hear who --

LEG. FOLEY:
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
By Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor?
Opposed? 2305 is approved. Congratulations, Ms. Lessler.
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

MS. LESSLER:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
2306-00 - (Approving the appointment of Cristina C. Bonuso as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #5 (County Executive). This is my nominee, Cristina Bonuso, who had made a commitment quite a while ago to

substitute teach today on day of mid-term exams and so could not be here. But if you look at her resume it's quite impressive, she's been the PTA President, is a substitute teacher, has also been a teacher, is very involved in youth in the community and I certainly highly recommend her personally and I --

LEG. CARPENTER:
And a parent.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
And a parent of two children who were my students who were excellent students.

LEG. CRECCA:
I will second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Yes, I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Crecca.
All in favor? Opposed? 2306 is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

2307-00 - (Approving the reappointment of Donald Hicks as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #9 (County Executive).

LEG. FOLEY:
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by the Chair. All in favor?
Opposed? 2307 is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle). Mr. Hicks, are you still here? Okay.

2308-00 - (Approving the appointment of Troy Livingston as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #9 (County Executive)).

LEG. CARPENTER:
Motion.

LEG. CRECCA:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Crecca. All in favor? Opposed? 2308 is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

2309-00 - (Approving the appointment of Karen Lessler as a member of the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council representing Legislative District #11 (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 2309 is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

Sense Resolutions

Sense 152-2000 - Memorializing Resolution requesting State of New York to institute community service in lieu of suspension for primary and secondary school students (Fields). Is there a motion?

LEG. COOPER:
I'll make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Motion by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. CRECCA:
Can I just have a brief explanation? I don't have a copy of it in my packet.

LEG. FOLEY:
You're asking first graders to do community service?

LEG. CRECCA:
I want to know if this affects my Kindergartner.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:
Only if he gets into serious trouble.

LEG. CRECCA:

Thanks, I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The only problem I have with this --

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

-- is that there is some -- I believe it's the purview of the school to make that judgment call.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah, that's one thing I --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I do like to see community service used, we see it used, but I just see it as the purview of the school district. I haven't spoken about this with the sponsor, I would like to get a better sense of where she's coming from with this.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah. And my concern is that being involved in school discipline matters in my private law practice previously, I think we might be stepping on the toes of school boards and school superintendents and administrators. So I would want to learn a little bit more about this and hear the sponsor's intent, not ruling it out, I just think it may be problematic. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? Sense No. 152 is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).

LEG. CRECCA:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Is there -- if there is no other business, there is a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Chair. The meeting stands adjourned. Thank you very much for all of you who waited patiently to hear the votes. Have a nice afternoon.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 P.M.*)

Legislator Vivian Fisher, Chairperson
Education and Youth Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically